Library Quarterly

FALL 2026

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the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library

Message from the Director

Anne Rasmussen

For the past two years, the Vernon Area Public Library District has been engaging with our community to assess our future needs. Through surveys, focus groups, and open houses, you shared your appreciation for the library, helped us understand where we have room for improvement, and shared your vision for its future.

Your valuable input helped shape a proposed plan for a comprehensive library renovation and expansion. The plan aims to make the most of our existing resources by bringing the currently dormant Annex back into public use and connecting it to the main building. Together, the new addition and reactivated Annex would expand the main library building by almost 40 percent — creating spaces for additional seating, bookshelves, new study rooms, a new community room, a makerspace, and more.

To execute this plan, the full project cost is estimated at $53 million. The library intends to cover $13.5 million using our savings, grants, and other available funding. The rest — $39.5 million — is being brought before voters through a bond referendum this November. If the ballot measure passes, we will renovate and expand the library according to the proposed plans. If it does not pass, we will use our available resources to address the top priorities, with updating our 30-year-old heating and cooling system at the top of the list.

I encourage you to review the official ballot language and fact-based informative materials we have prepared to help you make an informed decision. You can find these resources, along with project details and design renderings, at VAPLD.info/LibraryPlan or by visiting the library.

Anne

Library Quarterly

Christy Stroud, *Managing Editor*

CONTRIBUTORS

Cassandra Anzelone, Laura Cohen, Catherine Savage, Brian Wilson

IMAGE CREDITS

cover: RATIO Design

Contact

Feedback: **LQ@VAPLD.info**

Sign up for news and program info by email: VAPLD.info/subscribe

Main: 847-634-3650

Library cards, renewals: 224-543-1483

Adult Desk: 224-543-1485, AdultDesk@VAPLD.info

Youth Desk: 224-543-1486, YouthDesk@VAPLD.info

Senior Connections: 224-543-1406, senior@VAPLD.info

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Anne Rasmussen, *Library Director*, director@VAPLD.info

Concept drawing: *Inside main entrance*

Fall Library Referendum

On November 3, voters in the Vernon Area Public Library District will weigh in on a $39.5 million bond referendum to renovate and expand the library.

This fall, for the first time in more than 30 years,* the Vernon Area Public Library District will ask voters to participate in a bond referendum related to a building project.

If the referendum passes, we will move forward with a major library renovation and expansion project for the library.

Features of the proposed project include:

- Extensive renovation of the existing main library, including replacement and updates to shelving and other furniture
- Moving the library entrance for easier access from the parking lot
- Expanding the main library by nearly 21,000 sq.ft. by bringing the adjacent 1979 Annex building back into public service and connecting it to the library with a new addition

Since the current library building opened, we've grown ...

30%
more library district residents

63%
more books and materials on the shelves

200%
more program attendees

44,675 last year

(* The last ask was 1990)

- Expanding space for library programs that can also double as meeting space for local community groups, events, and recitals
- Spaces for middle- and high school student use during after-school and evening hours
- Additional spaces for private study and group collaboration 11 study rooms!
- Creation of a makerspace and classroom with equipment for hands-on learning
- Updates to heating/cooling, electrical and lighting to be more energy efficient

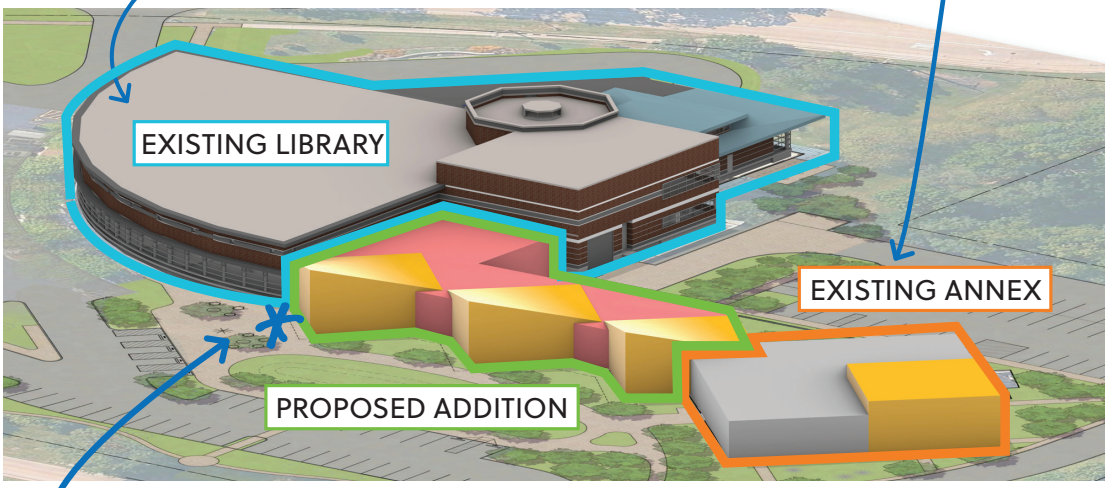
If approved, the property tax increase for a home with a fair market value of $400,000 would be approximately $122 per year (9.1¢ per $100 EAV). Construction would likely begin in late 2028 and be completed by fall 2030.

If the referendum does not pass, we will prioritize available resources to replace infrastructure that has reached end-of-life and make other safety improvements.

Voters are encouraged to review the measure's official ballot language and fact-based informative materials before casting their votes.

Would be renovated

Proposed large community room, makerspace, and classroom



Proposed centrally located main entrance

Defines how the funds would be used and the amount of the bonds

Official Ballot Wording

"Shall the Vernon Area Public Library District, Lake County, Illinois, repair, remodel, improve and build an addition to an existing library building, including constructing a secure and accessible central entrance; constructing a community makerspace; expanding spaces for library programs and community group use; improving spaces for early childhood and teens; constructing individual study and collaborative workspaces and issue its bonds to the amount of $39,500,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?"

Bigger pictures, more details, photos, and a place to ask questions:

Visit **VAPLD.info/BuildingProject** for more images, details, answers to frequently asked questions, and a tax impact estimation tool.

Creative Paths to Emotional Wellness

Cassandra Anzelone,
Manager of Programming,
Art Impact Project
Library Wellness Fellow

Creative expression relieves stress, fosters self-awareness, and provides a safe outlet for emotions. This fall at the library, we'll explore how creativity can support health and well-being through a vibrant lineup of programming and experiences.

Our work is guided by the talented professionals at Art Impact Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to harnessing the well-documented healing power of art-making. Everyone can be creative when you have the tools to inspire. To kick off our partnership, we asked Cassandra Anzelone, manager of programming, a few questions about how you can tap into your creative side:

If an adult hasn't picked up a colored pencil since childhood, what are some tips for channeling creativity?

Come to classes at your local libraries and community centers! You have the added benefit of being part of a community which alleviates feelings of loneliness and isolation. But even simple things like doodling with a pen, or coloring in a coloring book, will encourage creativity and benefit mental health.

Are some types of art more effective at contributing to emotional well-being?

Whether you're doing collage, painting, doodling, or crocheting, creativity releases dopamine and serotonin while lowering cortisol levels. Science increasingly supports all art forms — visual, movement, performance, and music — as powerful tools for mental health.

What do you hope our patrons gain from our collaboration?

Our first goal as facilitators is to make sure people have fun. Art is fun! On a deeper level, we hope participants experience the benefits of art-making firsthand. Whether they leave the group in a better mood, more focused, relaxed, or more confident, I'd like everyone to leave with a better sense of well-being. And hopefully inspire people to keep making art too!

Try it! Scan this QR code to download a neurographic doodle for a mindful and meditative experience.

A neurographic image is a piece of abstract art created using a therpeutic drawing technique that mimics the appearance of neural pathways in the brain. It blends mindfulness and art to help lower stress.

Community Partner: Art Impact Project

Art Impact Project enhances emotional wellness through creative expression. They believe that art-making is one of the most powerful untapped sources of intervention available, especially at a time when access to mental health care is extremely limited, and the need has never been higher. Their programming, serving middle school students to senior citizens, is focused on increasing positive self-awareness, building confidence, and promoting empathy for others.

Explore creative expression at these programs:

Learn to Play the Ukulele ADULTS

Learn to play several easy songs on the ukulele through hands-on practice and simple techniques with instructor Steven Steinberg.

Tuesday, September 15, 6:30–8:30 pm

Scribble Drawing Wellness Workshop ADULTS & TEENS

Learn to use creative expression as a tool for better mental well-being in this unique ink and watercolor art class with Art Impact Project. No experience is required. All supplies are provided, just bring your imagination.

Tuesday, September 22, 4–5:30 pm or 6:30–8 pm

Intro to Salsa Dancing ADULTS

Learn to dance salsa with staff from Desueño Dance. This session is ideal for beginners. No experience or partner needed.

Sunday, November 15, 1–2 pm

Family Concert: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet ALL AGES

Practice wellness through movement and dance at this all-ages family concert.

Saturday, October 24, 11–11:45 am

Mindfulness Art and Meditation GRADES K–5

Miss Jane will lead you in a few art and craft exercises and a guided meditation.

Wednesday, November 4
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Communitree: A Community Art Project

September 1–30

Illustrate our community's shared goals and strong foundation. During September, stop by the lobby to decorate a tree leaf and incorporate a word or phrase that describes a wish, hope, or goal you have for yourself or your community. Return to the library in October when the Art Impact Project assembles our leaves into a stunning "Communitree" at the front entrance.

MINI COMIC CON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
10 AM-3 PM
FREE FUN FOR ALL AGES

Gaming • Crafts • STEM Stations • Cosplayers • Artist Alley • Activities • Storytime • Super Smash Tournament • Award-Winning Comic Book Artist Gene Ha • Anne & Luke Horwath, *LEGO Masters* Season 5

VAPLD.INFO/MINICOMICCON

Get your flu shot at the library

Wednesday, October 14, 4–5:30 pm

Open to all ages; children and teens must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

The library is hosting a flu clinic in partnership with Walgreens. Get your flu, COVID-19, or pneumonia vaccine. Sign up in advance to secure your spot, then walk in any time during the clinic hours. Participants who have not pre-registered will be served only as supplies and staffing allow; registration is highly recommended. Registering ensures a dose for you, but does not give you a specific time slot. Expect a short wait during peak times.

All participants must provide proof of health insurance. Check with Walgreens or your provider if you have coverage questions.

Sign up by September 17. View available vaccines and details at VAPLD.info/FluClinic.

Welcome, New Staff!

You may have noticed some new faces at the library recently. At the end of May, we welcomed five new Circulation staff members: Caitlin, Elk, Brandon, Jay, and Natasha.

They have been busy learning new procedures and workflows to be able to provide you with fantastic customer service. Say hello if you see them at the Checkout Desk or around the library.

Our catalog is growing!

Cardholders will soon have access to over 5.4 million items when Rolling Meadows Library and Wauconda Area Public Library join the CCS consortium in October. During the upgrade process, **the catalog will have limited functionality from October 17–19**.

Here's what to expect:

- **Checkouts:** You can still check out items – just bring your library card!
- **Digital Resources:** All digital content will remain available.
- **Holds:** Place holds before October 17; no new holds can be placed October 17–19.
- **Catalog:** Online results may not be current. Call the library to confirm availablility.
- **Extended Due Dates:** Enjoy a little extra time with your items! All due dates will be extended so that nothing is due during the transition.
- **Returns:** Items returned between October 17–20 will be checked in starting October 21.
- **Account Access:** You can log in, but updates won't appear until after October 20.

We appreciate your patience during this brief disruption, and are excited about the benefits it brings to our community.

Featured Resources for Adults

Graphic Novels

An incredibly diverse collection that ranges from history, to adventure, to coming-of-age memoirs, all told with striking visuals.
VAPLD.info/GraphicNovels

Senior Activity Kits

Engaging games, activities, and conversation starters that keep the mind active, encourage social interaction, and provide enjoyable ways to learn.
VAPLD.info/SeniorActivity

World Language e-Books

Read e-books in Korean, Chinese, Polish, Russian, and Spanish on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. 50+ titles per language available for check out.
VAPLD.info/WorldE-Books

Classes & Events for Adults

All programs are indoors at the library unless otherwise noted (🏛 off-site, Ⓩ online). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1485.

Learn to Play the Ukulele
Learn to play several easy songs on the ukulele through hands-on practice and simple techniques with instructor Steven Steinberg.
Tuesday, September 15, 6:30–8:30 pm

Nonprofit Board Expo & Recruitment Event
Looking to give back to your community? Learn what nonprofit mission-based organizations are looking for in potential board members. Details at VAPLD.info/NonprofitExpo. Presented in partnership with The Lake County Community Foundation and GiveNKind.
Wednesday, September 16, 6–8 pm

HR Basics for Small Business
Sarah Mitial of People Architecture Group LLC cuts through the confusion and gives small business owners and managers the HR fundamentals they actually need. Presented in partnership with the Lake Cook Career Collaborative.
Wednesday, September 16, 7–8 pm Ⓩ

Blood Drive
Make an impact on our community by donating blood. Hosted by Versiti Blood Center of Illinois. Registration is recommended; walk-ins accepted if slots are open.
Thursday, September 17, 12–5 pm

Seed Packing Social

Prep for the Seed Library's March 2027 return with a hands-on seed-packing party. Drop in as you can or come for the whole session. All gardening levels are welcome.

Sunday, September 20, 2–3:30 pm
Saturday, October 17, 2–3:30 pm
Thursday, November 12, 7–8:30 pm

Scribble Drawing Wellness Workshop

Learn to use creative expression as a tool for better mental well-being in this unique ink and watercolor art class with Art Impact Project. No experience is required. All supplies are provided, just bring your imagination.

Tuesday, September 22, 4–5:30 pm or 6:30–8 pm

Civic Empowerment Series: Ready, Set, Vote: A Conversation on Being an Informed Voter

A dynamic panel discussion with a librarian, an attorney, and a rep from the League of Women Voters in Illinois will share trusted resources for researching candidates, understanding judicial elections, and navigating nonpartisan tools available to all.

Tuesday, September 29, 7–8 pm Z

Artists and Their Gardens

Immerse yourself in the stories how gardens influenced the work of artists–from Claude Monet to Frida Kahlo and Donald Judd–with Annaliese Wolf, education manager for the Kenosha Public Museums.

Wednesday, September 30, 1–2 pm

Long-Term Care Insurance

Make informed decisions about long-term care planning by discovering how coverage works, what services it may help pay for, and key factors to consider when planning for future care needs.

Wednesday, September 30, 7–8 pm

Concert: American Cash, October 11

Parent Education Workshops

AI Fundamentals for K-8 Parents & Caregivers

Julie Kelleher, founder of LIKEAMOTHER.AI™, will help you build a clear foundation in AI literacy, explore the tools and features your kids may already be accessing, and walk away with a practical rubric for evaluating new technology at home. Held in partnership with D103.

Tue, September 22, 7–8 pm Z

What to Know When Your Child Turns 18

Your parental rights become limited once your child turns 18. Explore what you need to know once your child becomes a legal adult and what needs to be put in place to protect you and your young adult. Presented by Shire Law Group, PC. and Stevenson High School.

Wed, September 23, 7–8 pm

Uncompete: Rethinking Success for Our Children

What if, in reality, competiton causes more harm than good? Bestselling author Ruchika Malhotra offers a timely and transformative new framework to rethink success for our children and encouraging families to grow together. In partnership with D96, D102, and D103 Parent Education.

Tue, October 6, 7–8 pm Z

Echoes of Hiroshima: A Survivor's Story

Through artwork, storytelling and video, explore the powerful story of a Hiroshima survivor and enduring message of peace captured in *Ninety Seconds Past Midnight*.

Thursday, October 1, 7–8 pm

Visit the Set of *Come From Away* at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre

Go behind-the-scenes at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre and hear from artistic and production team members about their current production, *Come From Away*.

Tuesday, October 6, 7–8 pm Marriott Theatre

The Music of Billy Joel: Just the Way He Is

Susan Benjamin and Cantor Jay O'Brien will perform live covers of Billy Joel's tender, boldly percussive, and deeply resonant songs, while sharing stories of his immense musical contributions.

Wednesday, October 7, 1–2 pm

Concert: American Cash

American Cash brings the legend to life, delivering a powerful, electrifying tribute to Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Three.

Sunday, October 11, 1–2 pm

Showing Appreciation for Veterans at Honor Flight Chicago

Local veterans share the impact of an extraordinary trip to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials built in tribute to the service of veterans of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and eventually Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm.

Tuesday, October 13, 1–2 pm

Let the Good Times Roll: Retirement Fair

Discover new, local opportunities to help you prepare and enjoy your retirement. Visit VAPLD.info/ActiveRetirement for details.

Wednesday, October 14, 4–5:30 pm

Author Spotlight

Exclusive online interviews with today's most compelling authors. Brought to you in partnership with the Library Speaker's Consortium.

David O. Stewart, *The Democracy We Must Keep*

Tuesday, September 1, 1–2 pm Z

Daniel Kraus, Pulitzer Prize Winning Author, *The Sixth Nik*

Tuesday, September 8, 6–7 pm Z

Priya Parker, *The Art of Fighting: Building Better, Stronger Relationships*

Tuesday, September 15, 3–4 pm Z

Lucky Diaz, *A Journey of Neighborhood, Music, and Art* GRADES K–12

Also available in Spanish from 7–7:30 pm.

Thursday, September 24, 6–6:30 pm Z

Veronica Roth, *Divergent* series

Thursday, October 1, 6–7 pm Z

Carolyn Russo, Art Curator at Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum

Thursday, October 8, 1–2 pm Z

David Epstein, *Inside the Box: How Constraints Make Us Better*

Tuesday, October 13, 1–2 pm Z

Kelly & Zach Weinersmith, Can and Should We Settle Space?

Tuesday, November 10, 1–2 pm Z

Watch previous talks on-demand:

VAPLD.info/AuthorSpotlight

Ochin Pakhi Band Performance, October 25

Ochin Pakhi: Chicago's Bengali Folk Band Performance

Ochin Pakhi performs the folk and traditional music of Bengal, the cultural region spanning Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal, using traditional and familiar instruments. Part of the MOSAIC cultural series.

Sunday, October 25, 1–2 pm

Shakespeare Project of Chicago Presents *Macbeth*

A full theatrical reading of Shakespeare's chilling masterpiece follows a brave Scottish general whose hunger for power plunges him into a spiral of guilt and bloodshed.

Monday, October 26, 6:30–9 pm

Medicare Choices

Get an overview of Medicare coverage choices, including Medicare Advantage plans and related benefits. Learn about plan features and ask general questions.

Thursday, October 29, 6:30–8 pm

***Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, and the Trappings of Home**

Join film expert Kelli Marshall to discover how John Hughes' comedy, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (1987), humorously explores the complex idea of "home" as both comfort and constraint.

Thursday, November 5, 1–2 pm

Community Art Jam: Mini Comic Con

Create art with local artist Justin Castaneda.

Saturday, November 7, 11 am–1 pm

Veterans Day Celebration featuring "Saddle Shoe Sisters Salute Veterans"

Honor veterans with a memorable afternoon of music, gratitude, and community. Enjoy lunch followed by an exceptional performance, "Saddle Shoe Sisters Salute Veterans." Presented in partnership with the Indian Trails Public Library and Buffalo Grove Park District.

Wednesday, November 11, 12:15–2 pm

🏛 Buffalo Grove Community Arts Center

Mini Comic Con

Visit VAPLD.info/MiniComicCon for details.

Saturday, November 14, 10 am–3 pm

Intro to Salsa Dancing

Learn to dance salsa with staff from Desueño Dance. This session is ideal for beginners. No experience or partner needed.

Sunday, November 15, 1–2 pm

Meet Brian Wilson

The library's first Emerging Tech & Digital Inclusion Librarian

Get to know one of the library's newest employees, and our first Emerging Tech & Digital Inclusion Librarian, Brian Wilson. We asked him a few questions about his new job, and what you can expect to see from him in the future.

As our very first Emerging Tech & Digital Inclusion Librarian, what gap are you hoping to fill in our community?

People have different backgrounds when it comes to using technology, and tech is everywhere and everything now. I hope to find people who want to learn how to get more out of their technology. I want to help people learn to be proactive technology users so they can take advantage of it. Everyone, including me, can learn more about technology, and I want to bring the positive benefits of technology to as many people as possible.

What kinds of programming, classes, or services can patrons look forward to seeing from you?

We have new tech classes in the works, including several on artificial intelligence. Along with that, we're planning a Tech & Chat program for casual conversation and learning about everything from devices, software, and current tech topics. We're also exploring taking technology training on the road to local senior living facilities.

What excites you most about your job?

The most exciting thing about my job is the opportunity to help this community. The community to me has a clear thirst for knowledge of all kinds, and I believe I can help bring a greater knowledge of technology to people who come to the library. Helping people learn new things is incredibly rewarding.

For someone who might feel intimidated by new technology, what is the first step they should take to get comfortable?

For me, the first step is always just trying something. If something goes wrong, we can usually try again. A lot of our tech now gives immediate feedback. Even if it's some sort of error message or something unexpected, we can carefully evaluate responses and try again. When we actively engage with technology, we get a lot out of it.

When you aren't helping people navigate the digital world, how do you like to unplug?

I'm a casual phone gamer in spare moments. When I have more time, I love reading, being outside, baking, and playing with my two kids (4 and 6 years old). They are just starting their journeys learning everything, including tech. Just like it happens sometimes when I teach adults tech, it's so great to see my kids' light bulbs of thought go off when my wife and I help them figure out something new.

Say hello to Brian if you see him at the Adult Desk. If you are interested in learning more about technology and artificial intelligence, sign up for one of his new Tech & Chat or AI Safety & Ethics programs (see pg. 12).

Maker & Technology Classes

Open Makerspace

Stop by to work on personalized crafts. We won't be teaching any new skills, but supplies will be available for sublimation printing and other projects.

Tuesdays, 6:30–8:30 pm
September 1, October 6
Thursday, November 19, 6:30–8:30 pm

Microsoft Excel

Sign up for the sessions that interest you.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm
September 8: Basics
September 15: Formulas & Functions
September 22: Functions 2
September 29: Pivot Tables

AI Safety & Ethics

Explore how artificial intelligence works through the lens of privacy and safety, and discuss how to use it ethically.

Wednesday, September 9, 6:30–7:30 pm
Saturday, October 24, 2–3 pm

Maker Class: Felted Succulents

Make your own felt out of wool fibers and create a 3D felt succulent.

Thursday, September 10, 6:30–8:30 pm

Microsoft Word

Sign up for the sessions that interest you.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm
September 17: Basics
September 24: Formatting
October 1: Advanced Topics

Tech & Chat

Relax over coffee and discuss tech news and a specific topic, with time for hands-on practice and an open Q&A.

Fridays, 11 am–12 pm
September 25: Computer Basics
November 20: Managing Files

Beyond the Bots: A Tour of the AI Landscape

Sunday, September 27, 11 am–12:30 pm
Tuesday, November 10, 7–8:30 pm

Maker Class: Crochet 101

Thursday, October 8, 6:30–8:30 pm

AI Projects and Presentations

Learn to use AI in creative and practical ways.

Tuesday, October 20, 7–8:30 pm

Maker Class: Alcohol Ink

Thursday, November 12, 6:30–8:30 pm

New Library of Things Items

Borrow items you don't normally use or that you want to try before investing the money. Check out some of the new items we added, including a beach jam kit, ghost hunting kit, Mahjong game, Braille Uno, a metal detector, a portable generator, an inflatable tube man, and more. View the full collection at VAPLD.info/LibraryofThings.

Meetups & Discussions

English Language Learners Conversation Group
Join other adult English language learners to practice speaking and listening while discussing different topics. Conversational English proficiency is recommended.
Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm
September 1, 15; October 6, 20; November 3, 17

Spinning Yarns: Knit & Crochet Group
Connect with fellow yarn lovers in a friendly and creative space. All levels welcome.
Wednesdays, 10–11 am
September 2, October 7, November 4

Book Discussion with Judy Levin
Thursdays, 10–11:30 am
September 10: *The Antidote* by Karen Russell
October 8: *A Marriage at Sea* by Sophie Elmhirst
November 12: *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan

Writers' Support Group
Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback, and discuss the publishing business.
Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm Z
September 10, October 1, November 19

Reel Talk Movie Discussion
Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then share your thoughts.
Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm Z
September 11: *Klute* (R)
October 9: *Bound* (R)
November 13: *Allied* (R)

Novel Night Book Discussion
Tuesdays, 7–8:15 pm
September 15: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali
November 17: *What We Can Know* by Ian McEwan

Great Decisions Discussion Group
Fridays, 1–2:30 pm Z
September 11, October 9, November 13
Wednesdays, 10:30 am–12 pm
September 16, October 21, November 18

Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap
Discuss over adult beverages and delicious food. For adults in their 20s and 30s.
Thursdays, 6–8 pm Half Day Brewing
September 17, October 15, November 19

Games for Grown-ups ADULTS & TEENS
Play popular board games with new friends. All skill levels welcome.
Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm
September 20, October 18, November 8

Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group
Craft in the company of other crafters, online. All skill levels welcome.
Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm Z
September 22, October 27, November 17

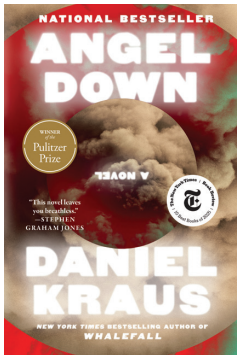
Choose Your Own Adventure: A Book Club
Silently read on your own for an hour, then choose to continue reading or chat with others.
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 pm
September 28, November 2

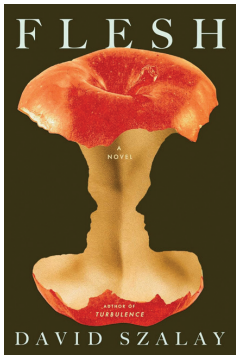
Memory Café
Connect monthly with other individuals with memory loss and their caregivers for socialization and fun, interactive programs.
Thursdays, 2–3 pm Alcott Center
September 24, October 22, November 19

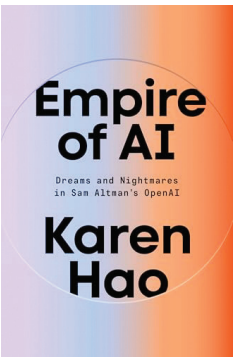
World Language Movie Discussion: *The Host* (R)
Stream or borrow the movie with your library card, then discuss with fellow international cinema fans.
Wednesday, October 28, 7–8 pm Z

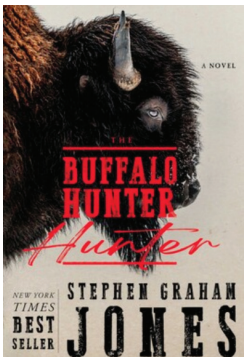
Top of the Class Reads

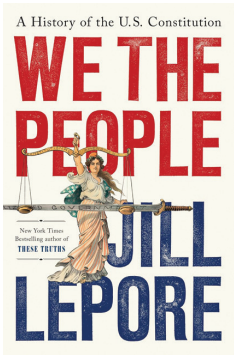
Pop quiz time! As the valedictorians of the literary world, award winners are a great way to find outstanding titles you might've missed.

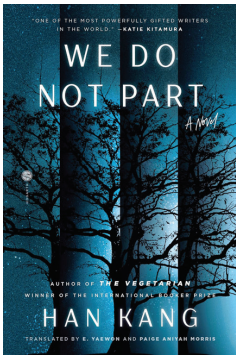


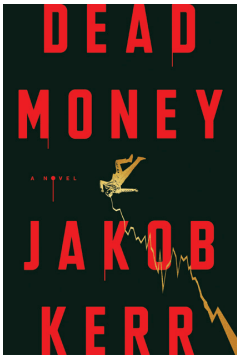


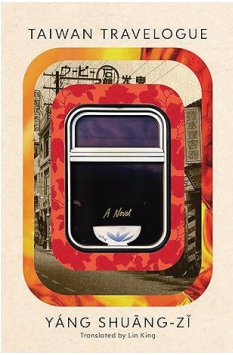












See if you can match these recent winners to their award.

1. National Book Critics Circle Award Fiction
2. Edgar Award Best First Novel
3. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
4. Nebula Awards Best Novel
5. Pulitzer Prize for History
6. Hugo Award Best Novel
7. Booker Prize
8. National Book Critics Circle Award Nonfiction
9. International Booker Prize
10. Nebula Awards Best Novella

____ *Angel Down* by Daniel Kraus
____ *Flesh* by David Szalay
____ *Empire of AI* by Karen Hao
____ *The Buffalo Hunter Hunter* by Stephen Graham Jones
____ *We the People* by Jill Lepore
____ *We Do Not Part* by Han Kang
____ *The Tainted Cup* by Robert Jackson Bennett
____ *The River Has Roots* by Amal El-Mohtar
____ *Dead Money* by Jakob Kerr
____ *Taiwan Travelogue* by Yáng Shuāng-zĭ

Answer Key: 1. We Do Not Part 2. Dead Money 3. Angel Down 4. The Buffalo Hunter Hunter 5. We the People 6. The Tainted Cup 7. Flesh 8. Empire of AI 9. Taiwan Travelogue 10. The River Has Roots

Featured Resources for Teens

New Switch 2

There's a new gaming area in the Junior High section of the library! Check out controllers at the Youth Desk to play Switch 2 games on the library's console.

Junior High Readalongs

Try a new way to read! A narrator reads to you as you follow along in the book. Perfect for reluctant readers and anyone who loves listening to books. VAPLD.info/JHReadalong

Learning Express

Improve core academic skills, prepare for college, explore careers, and more. Contains practice tests, interactive tutorials, articles, e-books, and flashcards. VAPLD.info/LearningExpress

Classes & Events for Teens

All programs are indoors at the library unless otherwise noted (🏛 off-site, Ⓩ online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.

Chess Challenge: Variant Edition GRADES 5–8
Build real strategy skills through classic play, then explore a fun chess variant that sparks curiosity and fresh thinking.
Tuesday, September 8, 7–8 pm

AI Basics GRADES 6–12
Learn the basics of writing AI prompts as well as how to be safe when using AI.
Wednesday, September 16, 5–6 pm or 7–8 pm

Seed Packing Social ADULTS & TEENS
Prep for the Seed Library's March 2027 return with a hands-on seed-packing party. Drop in as you can or come for the whole session. All gardening levels are welcome–no green thumb required.
Sunday, September 20, 2–3:30 pm
Saturday, October 17, 2–3:30 pm
Thursday, November 12, 7–8:30 pm

Parent Education: AI Fundamentals for K-8 Parents & Caregivers K–8 PARENTS
See pg. 8 for description.
Tuesday, September 22, 7–8 pm Ⓩ

Parent Education: What to Know When Your Child Turns 18 PARENTS
Explore what you need to know when your child is considered a legal adult, and what needs to be put in place to protect you and your young adult. Presented by Shire Law Group, PC.
Wednesday, September 23, 7–8 pm

Author Spotlight: Lucky Diaz GRADES K–12
See pg. 9 for more details. Also available in Spanish from 7–7:30 pm.
Thursday, September 24, 6–6:30 pm Ⓩ

Off the Page: A Teen Book Club GRADES 8–12

Meet at Culver's and add your voice to the banter while enjoying frozen custard (our treat!).

Mondays, 7–8:15 pm Culver's of Lincolnshire
Sep 28: *A Forgery of Fate* by Elizabeth Lim
October 19: *Starter Villain* by John Scalzi
November 16: *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn THRU GRADE 8

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking along with the group from home on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm Z
September 25: Snack Attack! After School Favorites
October 23: Pumpkin Patch Party
November 20: Friendsgiving Feast

Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion GRADES 6–8

Pick up a copy of *The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman* by Gennifer Choldenko (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk after registering.

Monday, October 5, 7–8 pm

Parent Education: Growing Together: Rethinking Success for Our Children PARENTS

See pg. 8 for description.

Tuesday, October 6, 7–8 pm Z

Period Party GRADES 4–12

Learn about the menstrual cycle and the changes that take place during puberty from a local healthcare professional. Customize an emergency period supplies pack to take home and pack a supply packet for Keeping Families Covered. All genders welcome.

Wednesday, October 7, 6:30–8 pm

Lock Decoders GRADES 6–8

Use your detective skills to unlock as many locks as you can before time runs out. Follow the clues, solve the puzzles, and have fun!

Thursday, October 15, 7–8 pm

Teen Service Club GRADES 7–12

Meet new people, participate in a variety of community service projects, and earn volunteer service hours when it fits your schedule. No application, no training, and no library card needed.

Tuesday, October 27, 7–8 pm

Community Art Jam: Gear Up for Mini Comic Con ALL AGES

Create art with local artist Justin Castaneda.

Saturday, November 7, 11 am–1 pm

Mini Comic Con ALL AGES

Visit VAPLD.info/MiniComicCon for details.

Saturday, November 14, 10 am–3 pm

Intermediate Chess Strategies GRADES 5–8

Level up your chess game with creative openings, clever tactics, and confident endgame play led by SHS chess club volunteers.

Tuesday, November 17, 7–8:15 pm

Fidget Lab GRADES 6–12

Design and build your own unique fidgets that will help promote focus, calm, and self-expression while you explore different textures, shapes, and sensory tools.

Monday, November 30, 7–8 pm

Period Party, October 7

Featured Resources for Elementary-aged Kids

Screen-free STEM Kits

New STEM kits available for screen-free learning and fun. Check out the GraviTrax Starter set, Physics Laws, and new Snap Circuits kits. VAPLD.info/ScreenFreeTech

World Languages on Overdrive

Read e-books in Spanish, Chinese, and Hindi on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. For even more languages, use LOTE4Kids for audio-picture books. VAPLD.info/WorldKids

Online Book Recs

Find book recommendations from your librarians in the catalog with online book lists. Check back as new lists are added. VAPLD.info/BookLists

Classes & Events for Elementary-aged Kids

All programs are indoors at the library unless otherwise noted (🏛 off-site, Ⓩ online, 🍀 outdoors). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.

Take & Make Craft Kits ALL AGES

Stop by the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

September 4: Sunflower
October 2: Halloween Bat

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am
September 5: Laura Doherty Duo 🍀
October 24: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet
Sat, Sep 26, 2–2:45 pm: Dreamtree Shakers 🍀
Tuesday, November 3, 10–10:45 am: Wendy & DB

Chess Challenge: Variant Edition GRADES 2–8

Build real strategy skills through classic play, then explore a fun chess variant that sparks curiosity and fresh thinking.

Tuesday, September 8
Grades 2-4: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 5-8: 7–8 pm

Exploring Great Artists: Pierre-Auguste Renoir GRADES K–5

Learn about the famous French painter then paint a Renoir-inspired masterpiece.

Wednesday, September 9
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Parent Education: AI Fundamentals for K-8 Parents & Caregivers K–8 PARENTS

See pg. 8 for description.

Tuesday, September 22, 7–8 pm Ⓩ

AI Info Session GRADES 3–5 W/ADULT

Learn the basics and safety surrounding AI and how to use it wisely.

Thursday, Sep 24, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

Author Spotlight: Lucky Diaz GRADES K–12

See pg. 9 for more details.

Thursday, September 24, 6–6:30 pm Ⓩ

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn GRADES K–8

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking with the group together on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm Z

Sep 25: Snack Attack! After School Favorites
October 23: Pumpkin Patch Party
November 20: Friendsgiving Feast

Lego Robotics GRADES K–5

Build and program an interactive Lego creation using our new Spike Essentials kits.

Tuesday, September 29
Grades K-2: 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Fall STEM Storytime GRADES K–2

Featuring a seasonal story and related STEM activities.

Monday, October 5, 4:30–5:15 pm

Parent Education: Uncompete: Rethinking Success for Our Children PARENTS

See pg. 8 for description.

Tuesday, October 6, 7–8 pm Z

Period Party GRADES 4–12

Learn about the menstrual cycle and puberty changes with a local healthcare professional then customize an emergency period supplies pack to take home. All genders welcome.

Wednesday, October 7, 6:30–8 pm

Lego Robotics, September 29

Bollywood Dance Celebration GRADES K–5

Learn traditional Bollywood dance steps with Meher Dance Group then practice your moves in a group celebration.

Saturday, October 10, 11 am–12 pm

Bluestem Award Book Discussion GRADES 3–5 W/ADULT

This parent and child book group will discuss *Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All* by Chanel Miller. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Tuesday, October 13, 7–8 pm

Lock Decoders GRADES 3–5

Use your detective skills to unlock as many locks as you can before time runs out. Follow the clues, solve the puzzles, and have fun.

Thursday, October 15, 4:30–5:30 pm

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop GRADES K–5

Explore Chinese culture through calligraphy and traditional stories. Presented in partnership with Stevenson's National Chinese Honor Society.

Tuesday, October 20, 6–7:30 pm

K9 Reading Buddies GRADES 1–5

Build reading confidence as your student reads aloud to a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute appointment beginning 30 days before the program at the Youth Desk or by calling 224-543-1486.

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 pm
October 21, November 18

Animals Around the World GRADES K–5

Get up close with fruit bats and other amazing animals from Incredible Bats.

Thursday, October 22, 6–7 pm

Ochin Pakhi: Chicago's Bengali Folk Band Performance ALL AGES

Ochin Pakhi performs the folk and traditional music of Bengal – the cultural region spanning Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal.

Sunday, October 25, 1–2 pm

Dinovember with T-Rexplorers, November 10

Create Art: Halloween Edition GRADES K–5
Miss Jane leads a step-by-step painting adventure to create a charming black cat for this Halloween Special.
Wednesday, October 28
Grades K-2: 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Mindfulness Art and Meditation GRADES K–5
See pg. 4 for description.
Wednesday, November 4
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Jedi Training PRESCHOOL–GRADE 5
Train like a Jedi with fight choreographer Andrew Trystad. Lightsabers provided.
Thursday, November 5
Pre-K-Grade 2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 6:30–7:30 pm

Adaptive Storytime AGES 2 & UP W/ADULT
A special character storytime for children with autism, sensory processing sensitivities, or disabilities.
Sat, November 7, 10–10:30 am or 12–12:30 pm

Community Art Jam: Gear Up for Mini Comic Con ALL AGES
Create art with local artist Justin Castaneda.
Saturday, November 7, 11 am–1 pm

Dinovember with the T-Rexplorers GRADES K–5
Learn about T-Rexplorer's latest dig and see some of their new fossil finds.
Tuesday, November 10, 6:30–7:30 pm

3D Printing: Flowers GRADES 3–5
Create a 3D flower design using Tinkercad.
Wed, November 11, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

Mini Comic Con ALL AGES
Visit VAPLD.info/MiniComicCon for details.
Saturday, November 14, 10 am–3 pm

Intermediate Chess Strategies GRADES 2–8
Level up your chess game with creative openings, clever tactics, and confident endgame play led by SHS chess club volunteers.
Tuesday, November 17
Grades 2-4: 4:30–5:45 pm
Grades 5-8: 7–8:15 pm

Big Blue Blocks Playdate ALL AGES
Build and play using the library's big blue blocks. No sign up required.
Monday, November 23, 9:30–11 am

Dinosaur Detectives GRADES K–5
Learn about these prehistoric creatures and work through activities to determine which mystery dinosaur you have discovered.
Monday, November 23
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:15 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–7:45 pm

Firefly Family Theatre presents *The Harvest Moon* AGES 2–7
Featuring puppets, original music, and interactive movement, the show is ideal for ages 2-7, but has something for all ages to enjoy.
Tue, Nov 24, 10–10:45 am or 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Lego Master Builders GRADES K–5
Work through a challenge, then let your imagination run wild during free building time.
Tuesday, November 24, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

Classes & Events for Early Childhood

Drop In

It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun! Free and open to all. All programs are indoors at the library unless otherwise noted.

Baby Rhyme Storytime 0–14 MONTHS
Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes, and books with Miss Kelsey. Then connect with neighbors while your baby plays and socializes with others.
Wednesdays, 9:30–10:15 am
Sep 2, 9, 23; Oct 7, 14, 28; Nov 4, 11, 25

Wiggling Ones 12–24 MONTHS
Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.
Tuesdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am
Sep 1, 8, 15, 22; Oct 13, 20, 27; Nov 10, 17

Together 2s & 3s 2–3 YEARS
Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.
Mondays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am
Sep 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12, 19; Nov 2, 9, 16

Preschool Storytime 3–5 YEARS
Practice language, listening, and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten with Miss Emily. Children attend without an adult.
Thursdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am
Sep 3, 10, 17; Oct 1, 8, 15; Nov 5, 12, 19

Preschool Storytime

Take & Make Craft Kits ALL AGES
Stop by the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:
September 4: Sunflower
October 2: Halloween Bat

Saturday Storytime AGES 0–6
Expert librarians use books, songs, and props that capture the attention of all ages. Perfect for working families, bookworms, wiggleworms, and everyone in between!
Saturday, October 3, 10–10:30 am

Starry Night Storytime AGES 0–6
Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.
Mondays, 6–6:30 pm
October 12, November 9

Monster Mash Bash AGES 3–5
Feeling slightly spooky? Join Miss Emily & Miss Julia for stories, songs, and dancing at our Monster Mash Bash! Costumes encouraged.
Thursday, October 29, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

Mini Comic Con ALL AGES
Visit VAPLD.info/MiniComicCon for details.
Saturday, November 14, 10 am–3 pm

Big Blue Blocks Playdate ALL AGES
Build and play using the library's big blue blocks.
Monday, November 23, 9:30–11 am

Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up 30 days in advance at VAPLD.info/calendar, by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted (🏛 off-site, 🍀 outdoors).

Science Detectives AGES 3–6

Discover the world around you by engaging in hands-on science activities.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am
September 4: Corn & Popcorn
October 2: Spiders
November 6: Pumpkins

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am
September 5: Laura Doherty Duo 🍀
October 24: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet
Sat, Sep 26, 2–2:45 pm: Dreamtree Shakers 🍀
Tuesday, November 3, 10–10:45 am: Wendy & DB

Mini Math Magicians AGES 3–5

Explore math concepts through books, games, and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10–10:30 am
September 24, October 22

Princess Storytime with Belle AGES 2 & UP

Celebrate Library Card Sign Up Month by listening to stories with your favorite book-loving princess. Stay for a meet and greet and photo op.

Saturday, September 26, 10–11:30 am

Oaks & Acorns Storytime at Sunrise of Buffalo Grove AGES 0–5

Bring your little acorn to a very special intergenerational storytime at a local assisted living facility that brings joy to everyone through song, stories and instruments.

Tuesday, September 29, 10–11 am 🏛 Sunrise of Buffalo Grove

Sunshine Squad AGES 0–6

Stories and activities focused on social-emotional development and cultural appreciation.

10–10:45 am
Wed, September 30: Managing Your Grouchies
Friday, October 16: Being Brave
Saturday, November 21: Attitude of Gratitude

Bilingual Storytime AGES 0–6

Enjoy stories and songs while exploring an introduction to a world language in this interactive storytime with The Language Labs.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am
October 9: Spanish
November 20: Korean

Lil' Trick-or-Reading AGES 0–2.5

Costumes welcome at this scary-less Halloween storytime followed by a trick-or-treating parade through the library.

Friday, October 23, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

Jedi Training PRESCHOOL–GRADE 2

Train like a Jedi with fight choreographer Andrew Trystad. Lightsabers provided.

Thursday, November 5, 4:30–5:30 pm

Adaptive Storytime AGES 2 & UP

A special character storytime for children with autism, sensory processing sensitivities, or disabilities.

Sat, November 7, 10–10:30 am or 12–12:30 pm

Firefly Family Theatre presents *The Harvest Moon* AGES 2–7

Featuring puppets, original music, and interactive movement.

Tue, Nov 24, 10–10:45 am or 11:30 am–12:15 pm

Vernon Area Public Library
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Community Gratitude Walk

Saturday, September 19, 10–11 am
Spring Lake Park

Enjoy a refreshing morning walk with live music, interactive activities, and opportunities to connect along the way. In partnership with the Village of Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire–Prairie View School District 103.

Connect

VAPLD.info

Main: 847-634-3650

App: Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

Socials:
Follow @vernonlibrary for updates and fun content

Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at VAPLD.info/card or visit.

Returns

Return materials 24/7 in front of the library or at these drop boxes: VAPLD.info/bookdrops

Open

Mon–Thur	9 am – 9 pm
Fri–Sat	9 am – 5 pm
Sunday	10 am – 5 pm

Closed

September 6–7
September 18
November 25, close at 5 pm
November 26

Photos & videos may be taken at programs in the library. If you do not wish to be photographed, please take a red lanyard at check-in or notify staff.

This magazine is printed on recycled paper made of 30% post-consumer waste.

Community Events

Visit the library's table at these events for information, activities, and giveaways.

Buffalo Grove Green Fair

Sun, September 20, 8 am–12:30 pm
Mike Rylko Park

Lincolnshire Boo Bash

Friday, October 30, 5–8 pm
North Park

Buffalo Grove Diwali Festival

Friday, November 6, 5:30–7:30 pm
Community Arts Center